



Standard Test Method for Measuring Thermal Insulation of Sleeping Bags Using a Heated Manikin¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1720; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

INTRODUCTION

Sleeping bags are used by people in outdoor environments to insulate them from the cold (that is, reduce their body heat loss to the environment). Sleeping bags often are used with ground pads and clothing inside tents that provide additional protection from the environment. The amount of insulation needed in a sleeping bag depends upon the air temperature and a number of other environmental factors (for example, wind speed, radiant temperature, moisture in the air), human factors (for example, a person's metabolic heat production that is affected by gender, age, fitness level, body type, size, position, and movement), and physical factors (for example, amount of body coverage and the quality of the insulating materials). The insulation value, expressed in clo units, can be used to characterize sleeping bags and sleeping bag systems. Insulation values can be used in body heat loss models to predict the temperature ratings for comfort.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers determination of the insulation value of a sleeping bag or sleeping bag system. It measures the resistance to dry heat transfer from a constant skin temperature manikin to a relatively cold environment. This is a static test that generates reproducible results, but the manikin cannot simulate real life sleeping conditions relating to some human and environmental factors, examples of which are listed in the introduction.

1.2 The insulation values obtained apply only to the sleeping bag, bag or sleeping bag system, as tested, and for the specified thermal and environmental conditions of each test, particularly with respect to air movement past the manikin.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[F1291 Test Method for Measuring the Thermal Insulation of Clothing Using a Heated Manikin](#)

2.2 *ISO Standards:*³

[ISO 13537 2002 Requirements for Sleeping Bags](#)

[ISO 15831 2004 Clothing—Physiological Effects—Measurement of Thermal Insulation by Means of a Thermal Manikin](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *auxiliary products, n*—items used with a sleeping bag to create a sleeping bag system such as clothing, ground pad, and bivy sack.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment—Equipment, Playing Surfaces, and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.22 on Camping Softgoods.

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2011; Nov. 1, 2014. Published February 2012; November 2014. Originally approved in 1996. Last previous edition approved in 2006 as F1720–06; F1720–06 (2011). DOI: [10.1520/F1720-06R11](#); [10.1520/F1720-14](#).

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](#), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](#). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

3.1.2 *clo, n*—unit of thermal resistance (insulation) equal to $0.155^{\circ}\text{C}\cdot\text{m}^2/\text{W}$.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—

A heavy men's business suit provides 1 clo of insulation.

3.1.3 *dry heat loss, n*—heat transferred from the body surface to a cooler environment by means of conduction, convection, and radiation.

3.1.4 *manikin, n*—a life-size model of the human body with a surface temperature similar to that of a human being.

3.1.5 *sleeping bag, n*—a structure made of down, synthetic fiberfill, shell fabrics, or other materials, or a combination thereof, that is designed for people to use for thermal protection when sleeping (for example, outdoors, tent, cabin).

3.1.6 *sleeping bag system, n*—sleeping bag used with auxiliary products such as clothing, ground pad, and bivy sack.

3.1.7 *thermal insulation, n*—resistance to dry heat transfer by way of conduction, convection, and radiation.

3.1.8 *total insulation (I_T), n*—the resistance to dry heat loss from the manikin that includes the resistance provided by the sleeping bag, auxiliary products (if used) and the air layer around the manikin.

3.1.8.1 *Discussion*—

Total insulation values (I_T) are measured directly with a manikin. They can be used to compare different sleeping bags, as long as each test is conducted using the same experimental procedures and test conditions.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A heated manikin is placed inside a sleeping bag or sleeping bag system in a cold environmental chamber.

4.2 The power needed to maintain a constant body temperature is measured.

4.3 The total thermal insulation of the sleeping bag or sleeping bag system (including the resistance of the external air layer) is calculated based on the skin temperature and surface area of the manikin, the air temperature, and the power level.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method can be used to quantify and compare the insulation provided by sleeping bags or sleeping bag systems. It can be used for material and design evaluations.

5.2 The measurement of the insulation provided by clothing (see Test Method F1291) and sleeping bags is complex and dependent on the apparatus and techniques used. It is not practical in a test method of this scope to establish details sufficient to cover all contingencies. Departures from the instructions in this test method may lead to significantly different test results. Technical knowledge concerning the theory of heat transfer, temperature and air motion measurement, and testing practices is needed to evaluate which departures from the instructions given in this test method are significant. Standardization of the method reduces, but does not eliminate, the need for such technical knowledge. Any departures should be reported with the results.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Manikin*⁴—Use a supine manikin that is formed in the shape and size of an adult male or female and is capable of being heated to a constant temperature of 32 to 34°C; average surface temperature of 35°C. The manikin's height should be between 1.5 and 1.9 m with a surface area between 1.5 and 2.1 m².

6.1.1 *Size and Shape*—Construct the manikin to simulate the body of a human being, that is, construct a head, chest/back, abdomen/buttocks, arms, hands, legs, and feet. Total surface area shall be $1.8 \pm 0.3 \text{ m}^2$, and height shall be $180 \pm 10 \text{ cm}$. Any departures from this description should be reported.

6.1.2 *Surface Temperature*—Construct the manikin so as to maintain a constant temperature distribution over the entire nude body surface with no local hot or cold spots. Ensure that the mean skin temperature of the manikin is 32 to 34°C. ~~It is recommended that the average temperature of the hands and feet be lower (26 to 29°C).~~ 35°C. Do not allow local deviations from the mean skin temperature to exceed $\pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$, ~~except in the extremities, $\pm 0.3^{\circ}\text{C}$.~~ Evaluate temperature uniformity of the nude manikin at least once annually using an infrared thermal imaging system, a surface (contact) temperature probe, or equivalent method. This procedure also should be repeated after repairs or alterations are completed that could affect temperature uniformity, for example, replacing a heating element.

6.2 *Power-Measuring Instruments*—Measure the power to the manikin so as to give an accurate average over the period of a test. If time proportioning or phase proportioning is used for power control, then devices that are capable of averaging over the

⁴ Information on laboratories with heated manikins can be obtained from the Institute for Environmental Research, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506.